
By: **Delegate Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Peeler Crabs - Catching and Possessing - Size Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of raising the minimum size requirement for peeler crabs that a
4 person may catch or possess; and generally relating to the minimum size
5 requirement for catching or possessing peeler crabs.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Natural Resources
8 Section 4-809
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2000 Replacement Volume)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Natural Resources**

14 4-809.

15 (a) A person may not catch or possess more than 10 hard crabs per bushel or
16 25 hard crabs per barrel which measure less than 5 inches across the shell from tip to
17 tip of spike.

18 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person may
19 not catch or possess peeler crabs measuring less than [3] THREE AND ONE-HALF
20 inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike.

21 (2) A person may possess a bycatch of peeler crabs measuring less than
22 [3] THREE AND ONE-HALF inches across the shell from tip to tip of spike if the
23 bycatch is not greater than:

24 (i) 30 per bushel; or

25 (ii) 60 per float.

1 (3) In determining the number of peelers measuring less than [3]
2 THREE AND ONE-HALF inches across the shell from tip to tip of the spike, the
3 Department shall select the minimum number of bushels or floats necessary to be
4 representative of the person's catch.

5 (c) A person may not catch or possess soft crabs measuring less than three
6 and one-half inches across the shell from tip to tip of the spike.

7 (d) In the waters of Worcester County, a person may not catch, possess, or
8 keep in floats any fat crabs, or any crab known as snot crab, green crab, or buckram
9 crab.

10 (e) The minimum size of crabs does not apply to mature female crabs,
11 identified by the rounded apron.

12 (f) The provisions of subsection (a) do not apply to crabs imported into
13 Maryland during the closed season for catching crabs if the person possessing the
14 imported crabs has a certificate of origin.

15 (g) Once taken, peelers shall be kept separate from other crabs.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2001.